

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 2, 2003**

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# **TUCSON FEDERAL JURY CONVICTS CALIFORNIA MAN OF ATTEMPTING TO SMUGGLE \$12,177 OUT OF THE UNITED STATES WITHOUT REPORTING IT**

**TUCSON, ARIZONA** -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on October 1, 2003, Fidel Beltran, D.O.B. 3/25/70, of Bellflower, California, was found guilty of Title 31, United States Code, Sections 5316 and 5322, Failure to Report Exporting Monetary Instruments, Title 31, United States Code, Section 5332, Bulk Cash Smuggling, and Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2), False Statement, by a federal jury at Tucson, Arizona.

The evidence at trial showed that on May 16, 2003, Beltran was a passenger in a vehicle that was stopped at the Grand Avenue Port of Entry in Nogales, Arizona. After the Customs Inspector explained the currency exporting requirement and Beltran stated that he understood the law, Beltran told the Inspector that he was carrying \$7,000. Beltran was actually carrying \$8,177 in his pockets and wallet and Inspectors found an additional \$4,000 stuffed into a diaper, hidden inside a diaper bag. After being advised of his Miranda

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Rights, Beltran admitted that he took responsibility for all of the money and that he had given another person in the vehicle the \$4,000 so that he would not have more than \$10,000 on his person.

Fidel Beltran had been charged with violating Title 31 of the United States Code, Sections 5316, 5322, and 5332, and Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2). The case was tried before United States District Court Judge Raner C. Collins on September 30 and October 1, 2003.

A conviction for Failure to Report Exporting Monetary Instruments carries a maximum penalty of not more than five years, a \$250,000 fine, or both and forfeiture. A conviction for Bulk Cash Smuggling carries a maximum penalty of not more than five years, a \$250,000 fine, or both and forfeiture. A conviction for False Statement carries a maximum penalty of not more than five years, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

The investigation leading to the guilty verdict was conducted by the United States Bureau of Customs and Border Protection and the United States Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Sentencing is set before Judge Raner C. Collins on December 11, 2003.

The prosecution is being handled by Jeffrey H. Jacobson, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-1189-TUC-RCC  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-171

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